

## **Robert G. "Sandie" Sanderson**

Roy - Robert Gordon Sanderson Ed.D passed away on Saturday February 25th 2012 just 5 days after his 92nd birthday. He was born in Las Vegas, NV on February 20, 1920 to George and Fern Sanderson.

At the age of 11 he and a sister were stricken with Spinal Meningitis and became deaf as a result. Although his deafness was a shock to the family, he resolved to finish his education and did so at the Utah State Schools for the Deaf and Blind. after graduation he went on to win a Bachelors Degree in Chemistry from Gallaudet College in Washington DC. He also went on to win advanced degrees in leadership training from California State University and a Doctorate in educational administration from Brigham Young University. He was most proud of his Doctorate of Humane Letters (Honorary) conferred by Gallaudet university in 2009 as it recognized his lifetime of work in the advancement of the hearing impaired.

He spent 20 years in the office of Vocational rehabilitation engaged in helping the hearing impaired find jobs, education, and purpose. Thousands of lives were touched and improved by this amazing man. He was the first director of the first of its kind Community Center for the Deaf and hard of hearing. He was honored in 2003 when the State of Utah officially re- named the Utah Community Center for the Deaf as the Robert G, Sanderson Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He was also an adjunct professor of sign language at the University of Utah and Weber State University as well as Utah State University.

He met and married the love of his life, Mary Margaret Antonietti in 1946 and they enjoyed 62 years of marriage before she passed away in 2008. They had two sons Gary R. Sanderson of Pasadena, CA who passed away in 2011 and Barry J. Sanderson (Teresa) of Layton, UT. He is also survived by his beloved grandchildren, Robert B. Sanderson (Nicole) and McKalle P. Sanderson.

He Loved working with his hands and built the family home in Roy from drawing the plans to making the beautiful knotty pine cabinets. He enjoyed fishing with his grandson and long, lively political discussions with his deaf friends.

Special thanks to Val Kinney, Dr. Chris Merkely, and the staff of the medical surgical and rehab floors at McKay-Dee hospital.

A memorial service will be held on March 31st 2012 at 11:00am at the Robert G. Sanderson Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Taylorsville, UT.

In keeping with his life long theme of serving others, his body was donated to the University of Utah so that medical Students may learn from him.